

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 1-14 will have been canceled and new claims 15-42 will have been submitted for consideration by the Examiner.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections of all the claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is believed to be appropriate and proper.

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the acknowledgment of Applicants' claims for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the Official Action. Applicant further notes with appreciation the Examiner's acknowledgment of Applicant's Information Disclosure Statements filed in the present application on October 6, 2000; January 4, 2001; and March 5, 2001 by the return of the initialed and signed PTO-1449 Forms, and for consideration of the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statements.

Further, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for conducting an interview by phone on January 26, 2005. During the interview, Applicant discussed the present invention and the applied art, and an agreement was reached that the invention included patentable subject matter. Applicant herewith submits a response based on the interview. However, Applicant has slightly changed the claim

terminology from indicating (using claim 15 as an example) that a text part page is not printed, to specifying that a page including a text part is not printed.

Turning to the merits of the action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C § 102 (b) as being anticipated by KITAORI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,915,024). Applicant respectfully traverses this ground of rejection.

As noted above, Applicant has canceled claims 1-14 and has submitted new claims 15-42. Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection based on newly added claims 15-42, and will discuss the rejection with respect to the pending claims in the present application, as will be set forth hereinbelow.

The newly added claims merely clarify the subject matter recited in the canceled claims, but do not narrow the scope of the claims. In this regard, Applicant notes that claims 15-23 are generally based on original claim 1; claims 24-28 are generally based on original claim 2; claim 29 is generally based on original claim 3; claim 30 is generally based on original claim 4; claim 31 is generally based on original claim 5; claim 32 is generally based on original claim 6; claim 33 is generally based on original claim 7; claims 34-36 are generally based on original claim 8; claim 37 is generally based on original claim 9; claim 38 is generally based on original claim 10; claim 39 is generally based on original claim 11; claim 40 is generally based on original claim 12; claim 41 is generally based on original claim 13; and claim 42 is generally based on original claim 14.

Applicant's invention, as defined by the claims, generally relate to an Internet facsimile apparatus which receives e-mail and prints the e-mail. The Internet facsimile apparatus comprises a controller which determines whether the received e-mail includes a text part when it is determined that the received e-mail comprises a multipart structure. The controller also determines whether the text part includes only a predetermined code. When it is determined that the text part includes only the predetermined code, the received e-mail is printed without printing a page including the text part (which contains only the predetermined code).

On the other hand, Applicant submits that KITAORI et al. relate to an electronic signature method for verifying a predetermined cited message of an electronic document with an electronic signature, even if the predetermined message is cited from the electronic document. The electronic signature is added to the electronic document in order to verify that the contents of the electronic document are not altered. For example, the electronic signature indicates that "an electronic document with the electronic signature is indeed drafted by a public organization and is not illicitly altered information or a grapevine" (see, col.1, lines 41-46). This differs from Applicant's instant invention, which does not verify the contents of an electronic document with an electronic signature, but instead, for example, does not print a page including text part that contains only a predetermined code (such as, but not limited to, for example, a space, a tab, or a

line feed), so that, for example, the usage of printer paper is reduced. Thus, Applicant submits that the pending claims are completely distinguished over KITAORI et al.

With respect to the rejection of original claims 1 and 8, Applicant submits that the second embodiment of KITAORI et al. discloses an electronic signature method for treating a document as a non-altered document when a control character (such as a space, or a line return which is not associated with the meaning of a document with an electronic signature) is inserted, i.e., when the meaning itself of the document is not altered. On the other hand, Applicant's instant invention does not treat a document as a non-altered document when a control character, such as a space, or a line return is inserted in the document. Instead, the present invention, for example, does not print a page including a text part from a received e-mail when the text part includes only a predetermined code, such as, for example, a space, a tab, or a line feed.

Further, Applicant submits that the second embodiment of KITAORI et al. invalidates a whole document if at least one altered signature message is present in the document. In the second embodiment, KITAORI et al. treat a document as a non-altered document when a control character such as a space, or a line return is inserted in the document, as noted above. Thus, KITAORI et al. function to validate a whole document when only the control character, such as, for example, a space, or a line return is inserted in the document. On the other hand, Applicant's

present invention functions to, for example, not print a page including a text part from a received e-mail when the text part includes only a predetermined code, such as, for example, a space, a tab, or a line feed, so that a text part that includes only the predetermined code is not printed.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that KITAORI et al. fail to anticipate the present invention, as defined by the newly submitted claims.

With respect to the rejection of other claims (corresponding to original claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14), the first embodiment of KITAORI et al. disclose verifying a predetermined cited message of an electronic document with an electronic signature even if the predetermined message is cited from the electronic document. The first embodiment detects a predetermined delimiter character (e.g., comma and period) from the data text and divides the data text into predetermined cited messages based on the predetermined delimiter. Then, KITAORI et al. verifies each the divided cited message and adds the electronic signature to each verified cited message.

On the other hand, the present invention neither relates to verifying a predetermined cited message of an electronic document, nor to adding an electronic signature to a verified cited message. Rather, the present invention, for example, replaces a character string between a predetermined pair of codes with another predetermined code when a text part includes the predetermined pair of codes. The replaced another predetermined code comprises an unprintable code,

such as, for example, a space, a tab, or a line feed. Then, the character string is not printed.

Thus, Applicant submits that the new claims are clearly distinguished over KITAORI et al.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the features recited in Applicant's claims 15-42 are not disclosed in KITAORI et al. cited by the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application in due course.

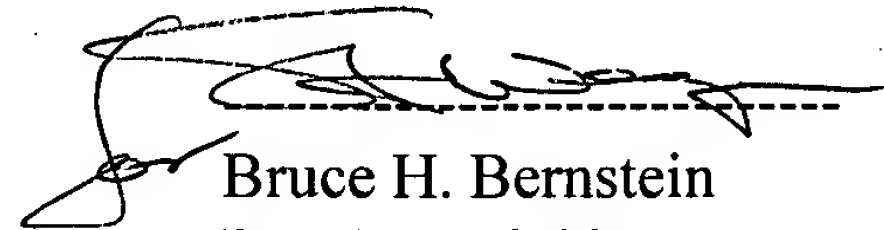
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has canceled the rejected claims and has submitted new claims for consideration by the Examiner. With respect to the new claims, Applicant has pointed out the features thereof and has contrasted the features of the new claims with the disclosures of the references. Accordingly, Applicant has provided a clear evidentiary basis supporting the patentability of all claims in the present application and respectfully requests an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application in due course.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Kyoji SAITO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce H. Bernstein", is written over a horizontal dashed line.

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